

S-E-C-R-E-T

20 February 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

FROM: Chief, FBIS

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau

a. A specific station site was agreed on. An application to the Kaduna Administrator for the site is in process.

b. Details of a lease to cover four houses, to be constructed for occupancy by classified personnel, were studied with a local contractor. Construction is estimated to take up to seven months after a formalization of an understanding on the lease.

c. Requisitions covering all electronic materials and equipment for the operations building and antenna field, except poles, have been submitted to Procurement Division.

d. The first monitor hired by the Bureau commenced work on 5 January. He was employed to monitor comment broadcast by the Republic of the Camerouns from Garoua incident to the plebiscite to be held in February in the British mandated territory of the Cameroons. The first item filed by the bureau, Garoua in Hausa and Fulani, arrived in headquarters on 2 February. These items are being passed to the Northern Regional Government.

e. The Office of Personnel, in conjunction with the Department of State, authorized an increased cost-of-living allowance for African Bureau employees to offset the additional living expenses resulting from the lack of diplomatic or consular privileges. [redacted]

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2. Daily Report Supplement No. 1 containing the text of Khrushchev's 6 January speech to the CPSU plenum on the Moscow Conference of world communist leaders received wide supplemental distribution. Scheduled for regular distribution on Monday 23 January, in view of high-level interest the supplement was distributed by special courier to the DD/I's office on the morning of 21 January. Several Agency offices having urgent interest in this text were provided raw copy versions on 19 and 20 January. Approximately 450 extra copies of the finished supplement were distributed to a broad variety of government and military offices, including 300 to the Department of State, which, on the recommendation of Ambassador Thompson and Special Assistant Charles Bohlen, sent copies to all U.S. Foreign Service posts. [redacted]

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3. In addition to the 19 January supplement, the Daily Report on 24 Jan-

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uary issued Supplement No. 2, "Khrushchev 17 January CPSU Plenum Speech on Agricultural Production." Two World Reaction Series reports were issued during the past 30 days: one on the inauguration of the new U.S. administration (25 January) and one on President Kennedy's state of the union message (2 February). Special printing arrangements were utilized to make copies of the state-of-the-union-message report available to the DCI in advance of general distribution. [REDACTED]

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4. At a meeting requested by Department of State China affairs specialists, representatives of FBIS discussed various aspects of Communist Chinese regional radio monitoring. The primary purpose of the meeting was to determine what additional monitoring might be done to fill the information gap caused by the drying up of collection sources for the provincial press. The basic procedures and techniques of monitoring, and the specific problems of regional coverage, were explained in detail to the Department of State representatives. While it was generally agreed that the radio seldom parallels the provincial press as regards hard political intelligence material, State suggested that a visit to Okinawa by the Chief of the Hong Kong Press Monitoring Unit might prove useful in evaluating, through direct observation of monitorial and editorial processes, the regional radio potential. With the approval of the Chief, FBIS, such a trip was authorized by the Department and Mr. Jack Friedman, Hong Kong Publications Procurement Officer, was scheduled to visit Okinawa Bureau 2-3 February. [REDACTED]

50X1

5. Plans are in preparation to send a two-man survey team to Puerto Rico in the spring of this year to determine whether the island would be a suitable location for monitoring South American, African and European transmitters. [REDACTED]

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6. On 31 January the Chiefs, Engineering and Operations Staffs viewed tape recordings of Sakhalinsk TV broadcasts monitored at Wakkanai, Hokkaido, Japan. The quality of both the sound and video portions of the recorded broadcasts was poor and it was decided to defer further action pending the receipt of samples of additional broadcasts scheduled to be monitored from a more advantageous site with better equipment. [REDACTED]

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7. What appears to be the forerunner of a Cuban International Service has been observed by FBIS monitors on 11760 kcs since 30 January. The station, using moderate power, was heard with a one-hour Spanish language transmission announcing itself as "Radio Havana, the Free Voice of America." [REDACTED]

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8. An Intra-Agency meeting was held 13 February to discuss Agency responsibilities in connection with the report of the Direction Finding Working Group approved by the USIB. [REDACTED]

50X1

9. Coverage of Laotian stations is being stressed, but is still far from satisfactory, mainly due to inadequate transmitting power. The clandestine-operated pro-Southern "Radio of the Laotian Kingdom" returned to the air in mid-January and now has four half-hour transmissions daily using the facilities of the pro-Communist "Pathet Lao Radio." Stations at Pakse, Luang Prabang, and Savannakhet (All pro-Boun Oum) are being monitored irregularly, but the material is not always important enough for regular coverage. The use of frequencies under 8 megacycles by Laotian stations also makes it

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difficult to cover daytime broadcasts at the Okinawa and Saigon bureaus. However, some material is being intercepted during morning and evening hours to provide a modicum of coverage of the Laotian situation. [redacted]

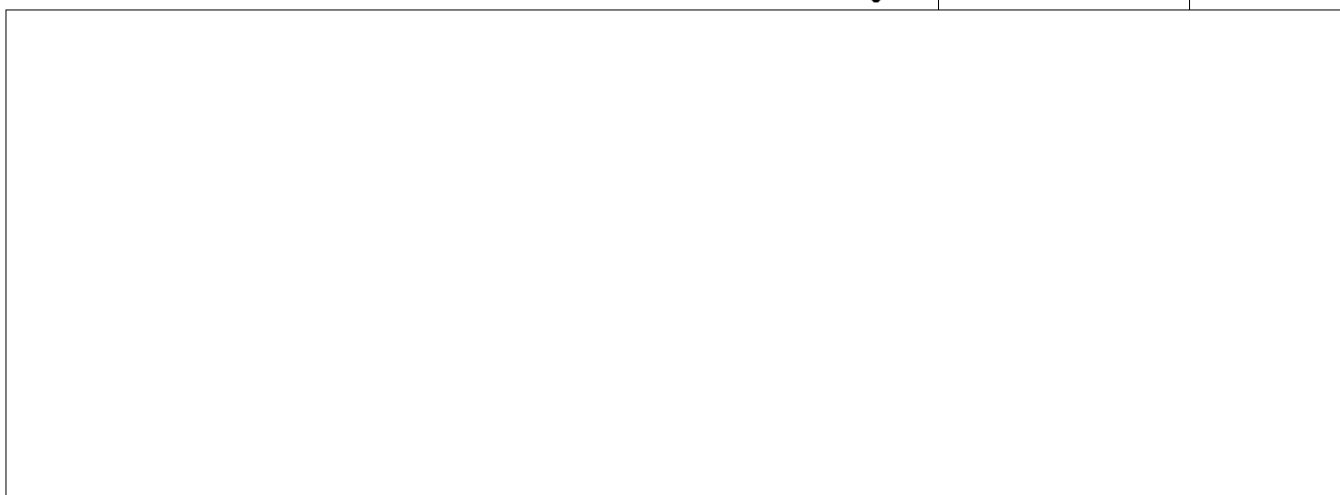
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10. Of 246 items included in the Current Intelligence Digest during January, 75 (30.4 percent) were based wholly or in part on FBIS monitoring. [redacted]

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11. During January 88 percent of the Daily Report pages were devoted to broadcast material and 12 percent to press scrutiny. [redacted]

50X1



13. Circuit tests were carried out during January on a direct patch between the German and London Bureaus via Frankfurt, Pirmasens, and Saran. These facilities are offered without cost and the patch should provide FBIS with an allocated channel between the two bureaus, speeding up traffic considerably. Results have not yet been determined. [redacted]

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14. New forms for the annual survey of FBIS publications consumers were prepared by the Liaison and Requirements Staff and forwarded to Forms Management for approval in mid-January. The comprehensive survey, which this year will include BIS publications recipients, will begin in February. [redacted]

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PROPAGANDA ANALYSIS COMMENT [redacted]

50X1

1. Radio Propaganda Reports issued (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. "Shifts in Editorial Boards of Key Soviet Journals" [redacted]

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b. "Soviet Outer-Space Programming, September 1960 - January 1961: Renewed Caution about Manned Space Flight," seventh in the series prepared primarily for the Guided Missiles Division, OSI [redacted]

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c. "Initial Bloc Treatment of the New U.S. Administration:

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Divergences Between Moscow and Peking," prepared at DD/P request

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d. "Albania Maintains Pro-Chinese Stand as Party Congress Approaches" [redacted]

50X1

2. A Special Memorandum collating authoritative Soviet statements on a possible resumption of nuclear tests by the USSR was prepared for State Department RSB. Copies were forwarded to the DD/I and subsequently to interested officers in the U.S. Disarmament Administration and USIA.

3. A Special Memorandum on Moscow and Peking charges of U.S. espionage was prepared at the request of the Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, with a view of determining whether there has been an increase in such charges in recent months. The report was passed to the requestor by the DD/I, and a copy was sent to Presidential Special Assistant Mc George Bundy.

4. USIA requested FBIS support in the weekly collection of information on communist propaganda to Near East and South Asian countries, for use in briefings of USIA officials by a member of that agency's Office of Research and Analysis. (Support has been furnished USIA for some months in connection with similar briefings on communist output to Africa.) FBIS undertook to supply unpublished communist comment to and about these areas, as well as weekly RPB memoranda on local events in the countries concerned that are exploited in bloc propaganda. RPB will consult with the requestor on additional facets of this service once the project is underway.

5. The following are among Radio Propaganda Reports projected or under consideration for publication within the next few months (responsible analyst indicated in parentheses):

a. Soviet propaganda on international cooperation in outer space [redacted]

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b. Contrasting Soviet and Chinese views on "national liberation movements" [redacted]

50X1

c. Problems encountered in the administration of CPR communes [redacted]

50X1

d. Opposition to the commune program in the Chinese Communist Party [redacted]

50X1

e. Treatment of Cuba in Moscow and Peking propaganda [redacted]

50X1

6. RPB continues to have need for a periodic sampling of routine comment from Moscow on such subjects of current continuing interest as the German problem and NATO developments (for example, the Wintershield II maneuvers), even though the content may follow standard lines and appear

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to contain nothing of an extraordinary nature. Without such a sampling, it is difficult for analysts to answer questions from consumers about current lines and emphases. Confirmation of the fact that there is no significant change in the Soviet line may be just as significant as evidence of a change.

7. RPB appreciates the initiative shown by the Okinawa Bureau in filing FYI's such as that of 19 January, comparing the People's Daily summary of Khrushchev's 6 January speech with the TASS summary as published in the Daily Report, and for its very prompt responses to a number of branch requests.

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EDITORIAL BRANCH COMMENT

GENERAL

1. During the recent El Salvador coup by military elements, both the East and West Coast bureaus were able to monitor afternoon and evening broadcasts over the government-owned "Radio Nacional" of San Salvador, which broadcasts on shortwave. Although material was limited, key announcements and news items were intercepted from this official station.

2. Coverage of Elisabethville, Katanga, broadcasts was facilitated in January with the inauguration of a new 50 kilowatt transmitter by Radio Katanga, which now can be heard in several languages with clear signals in Europe and on the U.S. East Coast. Leopoldville reception also improved during January, especially of the new Congo International Service, which was recently inaugurated. The inauguration of new high-powered shortwave transmitters in several West and Central African countries has gradually enabled FBIS to increase its African potential coverage during the past few months. A number of other African countries are preparing to inaugurate new short-wave transmitters during the next few months, which should further enhance East Coast Bureau coverage of African material.

3. Although headquarters will make every effort through target lists, and occasionally by individual service or administrative messages, to alert the field to special interests and ad hoc requirements of FBIS consumers, the bureaus themselves should explore every possibility of securing adequate coverage, including the scheduling of special programs and the cruising for supplemental sources. They should be especially vigilant to prevent being caught off base by unexpected events of importance occurring in areas within their range of coverage.

4. The Technical Information Unit is often in position to provide specific lists of names on occasions when persons are difficult to identify from general lists available to the bureaus. A recent example of this involved the names of Chinese delegates to the Albanian party congress. It is patently difficult to identify Chinese names given in an Albanian-language broadcast, and a general scanning of available Chinese official lists can easily lead to erroneous identifications when efforts are made to match a phonetic with an existing name. On such occasions the field should ask TIU for a list, if available, of the names as received from a source less susceptible to error.

5. Reports on the whereabouts, utterances, or activities of Soviet leaders occasionally have been overlooked because they were buried in long regional items or in material from nonbloc sources. To alert headquarters and keep it informed on movements of the USSR hierarchy, bureaus should evaluate such obscure or oblique reports for current personnel intelligence value and file appropriate FYI's flagged "COPY TO RPB." This is not to be considered a substitute for regular processing and filing, but as a safeguard against loss or delay of useful information.

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6. When an important name or position is initially mentioned under new or changed circumstances, the editor should take cognizance of this fact by a brief note, and if the position title is given or described in an unfamiliar grouping of foreign words, these should be included. The first indication of the downgrading of CPSU Presidium member Aristov was in a Soviet regional item identifying another person with one of Aristov's titles, but this was not called to headquarters attention. In the second case, what appeared to be a new administration for the Soviet forces in East Germany was the result of a poor translation of a standard term; this could have been avoided by giving the original Russian.

7. Summarizing or excerpting of an item for purposes of condensation is generally not worthwhile unless a reasonable reduction can be achieved, say 20 or 25 percent in a short item and at least 10 or 15 in a long one.

8. FYI's filed to headquarters which are considered appropriate for use on the wire should include the entire logograph consisting of source, time, service and beam as appropriate. For example, it is not enough to indicate only that an item was transmitted by TASS at a certain time.

9. Confirmation of the broadcast date-time group at the end of an item serves an extremely useful function and should not be omitted in processing monitored material. The inclusion of the confirmation acts as a double check, especially in press items which do not carry a single scheduled time.

10. Some bureaus, disregarding the Editorial Handbook's instructions to avoid verbs in Brief heads, have been filing Briefs with short versions of 36-heads. Monitors and editors should strive to preserve the label-type head which characterizes the Brief, employing verbs only when they cannot be avoided.

11. Field bureaus performed most creditably in meeting headquarters requirements during the past month despite heavy burdens imposed by inauguration of the Kennedy administration and related developments, the CPSU plenum, and the launching of the Soviet satellites. Frequently these efforts necessitated extensive coordination among the various bureaus and extensive checking and cross-checking. Headquarters is most appreciative of the speed and attention with which queries were handled and the initiative shown by bureaus in bringing pertinent facts to Washington's attention. The recent plenum of the CPSU Central Committee provided a good example of contributory coverage by several bureaus, in this case by London, Kyrenia, and Vienna. The lessons learned in coordinating the processing of speeches will be turned to good advantage when preparing for the fall CPSU Congress.

London Bureau

The text of Khrushchev's January 6 speech on the Moscow conference of communist and workers parties, as first broadcast by the Soviet home service on January 19, was distributed as a supplement on the same day it was broadcast. Since the speech was not published in IZVESTIYA until January 24,

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FBIS was able to provide a unique service for its consumers. However, the fact that Khrushchev's speech had been published earlier in less available communist publications should have been reported immediately.

Austrian Bureau

1. Recent surveys of East European press coverage of specific events such as the Kennedy inauguration, as a supplement to radio material filed by other European bureaus, have been used to good advantage. It is planned to utilize this type of item in the future as an appendix to the Soviet-East Europe broadcast review in the Daily Report.

2. Reports similar to the bureau's careful comparison of the Soviet press version and the English text of the President's inaugural address will be welcomed in the future.

Mediterranean Bureau

1. Soviet regional copy appears to contain too much parenthetical material in the language monitored, particularly for the names of plants and other economic installations. The general rule is that the foreign language should be used to clarify questionable passages. For regional copy this should apply almost exclusively to questionable technical and scientific translations.

2. When writers of the Middle East Review wish to include material from communist bloc transmitters they are requested to carry the material at the end under the heading "Communist Comment."

3. In the listing of items on the Middle East Commentary List it would be helpful to put the identifying logograph at the beginning of each item listed, for example: Amman Arabic 121900: Political commentary on Algerian developments, hailing Bourguiba and Tunisian efforts. 7 min.

4. Use of "VOA" as an abbreviation for Voice of the Arabs should be avoided.

5. UAR transmitters use the terms "Arab" and "UAR" interchangeably. Monitors and editors are requested to render these terms as transmitted. The same applies if the UAR starts using "Jordan" and "Transjordan" synonymously, particularly in respect to the "Palestine entity" question.

6. The item from Ankara home on February 13 at 1700 GMT containing editors' notes identifying the named founders of the New Turkey Party was much appreciated by headquarters editors. Such background information greatly enhances the value of items of that nature.

Okinawa Bureau

The Bureau is to be commended for its initiative in inaugurating the

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press review of Chinese regional transmitters, and in general for the recent pronounced increase in its exploitation of regional resources.

ENGINEERING AND FIELD OPERATIONS

1. Bureaus having knowledge of important events and speeches which will be broadcast within their normal coverage areas and which they are unable to monitor because of reception or staffing limitations, should notify headquarters and/or other interested bureaus of their inability to cover adequately, providing pertinent coverage details (time, frequency, language).

2. An administrative message normally should be answered in kind, since the reply usually concerns the individual or component who initiated the exchange. However, when such substantive general-interest material as broadcast content or radio behavior is involved, bureaus may respond editorially by citing the administrative message and flagging the reply "COPY TO" the originator, except in case of RPB requests when responsive material should be flagged "COPY TO CHIEF, RPB." Such editorial messages should be drafted so as to make it unnecessary for the recipient to have seen the original request. An administrative reply to the original message is always necessary for the record. This may precede or follow the editorial message as circumstances dictate, but need only indicate how the request was handled.

3. Although prompt reporting of new Soviet space facts is still important and necessary, it is no longer required that initial announcements be filed to headquarters by YY precedence. In most cases, especially with the use of the allocated channels, the use of OO will guarantee almost immediate receipt in headquarters and the promptest handling by wire room personnel. YY should be reserved for highly important material directly affecting the security of the United States or its allies.

4. FOS/BIS prepared a special report on the history of the Communist-run "Voice of Truth" radio station, which broadcasts to Greece from East Germany, and on the former "Free Greece Radio," which operated some years ago from Yugoslavia and Rumania. This information was prepared to correct erroneous information on this subject contained in two State Department cables.

5. Two additional countries inaugurated broadcast services for Africa during January -- Poland and Canada. Radio Warsaw started its African Service on 20 January in French and English, totalling 10½ hours weekly in each language. Radio Canada started its African Service in English and French on 29 January totalling 10½ hours weekly. Warsaw also started a service for Australasia on 20 January and has not restored its total international broadcast output to the level broadcast prior to the cessation of its North American Service on 1 December 1960.

6. Field bureaus are requested to advise the Chief, BIS when a cruising monitor expects to be absent from duty for more than 3 days in order that cruising assignments may be properly allocated to other bureaus.

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7. When an extensive cruising assignment has been levied on a bureau by headquarters, an estimate of the date when bureau expects completion of the project should be sent to the Chief, BIS as soon as possible. He should also be informed of any subsequent revision of the estimate.

8. The housing area project, bedroom additions to four duplexes and window replacements in the club BOQ, was 98 percent complete on 31 January; and the addition to the operations building at Bolo Point was 44 percent complete. With recent deliveries of critical materials, progress on the latter should be accelerated during February.

ADMINISTRATION

1. The following FBIS regulatory issuances were released during the month of January:

STAT

PERSONNEL CHANGES

ASSIGNMENT

1. New Employees

Teletypist
Editorial Branch

Watch Officer
East Coast Bureau

Editor, USSR & EE Sect.
Editorial Branch

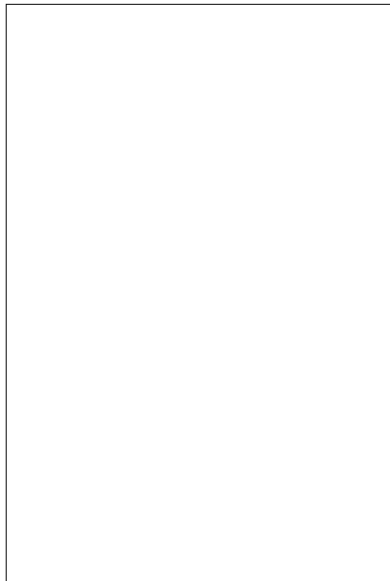
Monitor
West Coast Bureau

STAT

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U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D

2. Reassignments



From

To

Senior Editor
London Bureau

Chief, FE Sect.
Editorial Branch

STAT

Analyst
Radio Propaganda
Branch

Editor, USSR & EE Sect.
Editorial Branch

Senior Editor
Mediterranean
Bureau

Senior Editor, Wire
Service Sect.
Editorial Branch

Chief
Saigon Bureau

Deputy Chief,
Liaison & Requirements
Staff

Senior Editor
Mediterranean
Bureau

Senior Editor, Wire
Service Sect.
Editorial Branch

3. Separations



From

Teletype Supv.
East Coast Bureau

(Death)

STAT

Teletypist
West Coast Bureau

STAT

ROGER G. SEELY

U-N-C-L-A-S-S-I-F-I-E-D